

THEORY AND PROBLEMS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT—David P. Ausubel, M.D., Ph.D., Bureau of Educational Research, University of Illinois, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1958. 650 pages, \$12.00.

This book exhibits a tremendous effort in research. In the 650 pages, the author includes 77 pages of references. The author index accounts for nine pages. The subject matter is well indexed in 29 more pages.

Reading is heavy and laborious for the chapters abound in 50-or-more word sentences and the author delights in filling these sentences with six-syllable words.

The author states that the book is intended as an advanced text for graduate students in psychology and education but might be used for mature undergraduates adequately prepared in psychology. He also intends it as a reference work for pediatricians, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. Unless the pediatrician were well grounded in the language of the psychologist he would find himself lost in most of the chapters. He would long for brevity and simplicity of expression.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I deals with the general theoretical and methodological issues in child development. Part II considers the origins, raw materials and beginning status of behavior and capacity. Part III deals with the general theory of personality development. Part IV is concerned with special aspects of development which are relatively more peripheral and less ego-related. It would be in Part IV that the pediatrician would find himself more at home.

As the title states the text is largely theoretical. Very few examples are cited to elucidate these theories. The author rejects or criticizes many of the theories as expounded by Freud, Watson, Gesell and others. The lowly reader wonders if the theories expounded are really what makes the child tick.

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REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR—1957—Clarence Cook Little, Sc.D., Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Tobacco Industry Research Committee. 150 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y. 49 pages.

This small monograph consists of abstracts of twenty scientific papers dealing with various phases of research directly or indirectly connected with the potential effect of certain noxious agents on normal and abnormal pulmonary, cardiovascular, cutaneous and other tissues.

Dr. C. C. Little, the scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, makes the following points as a result of the investigations referred to:

1. Prolonged exposure of the lungs of rodents to massive doses of cigarette smoke has failed to produce bronchogenic cancer.

2. Tobacco smoke condensates have failed to produce cancer, even on the skin of susceptible mice, when applied at a rate and quantity simulating conditions of human smoking.

3. Peripherovascular constriction following nicotine ingestion does not occur routinely; it is found only in certain persons under certain conditions.

4. In one study of the effect of cigarette smoking on gastric secretions of patients with duodenal ulcer, such smoking did not produce significant changes in such secretions.

The Scientific Advisory Board of the Tobacco Research Committee includes distinguished investigators such as Julius H. Comroe, Jr., Leon O. Jacobson, Paul Kotin, Stanley Reimann, and Edwin B. Wilson. It was organized almost five years ago and functions as an independent body in the allocation of grants for research, the amounts appropriated to date being approximately \$2,200,000. Primary attention has been given to research projects relating to cancer and

heart ailments, but funds have also been allocated to basic and unrelated projects. Investigations are also under way in connection with the sociological and psychological aspects of the kind of people who become excessive smokers.

Progress of medical research is slow and painstaking. The factor of multiple causation in human diseases prevents simple elucidation of many problems. While excessive intake of carbohydrates, fats, ethyl hydrates and tobacco smoke is unquestionably harmful, the precise position of moderate usage of some of these materials is still unsettled.

The report includes a list of grantees and project titles, the former numbering many well known research workers and university professors in this state. The monograph should be of interest to physicians questioned regarding the apparent noxious properties of Lady Nicotine.

L. H. GARLAND, M.B.

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THE STUDENT LIFE (The Philosophy of Sir William Osler)—Richard E. Verney, M.B., F.R.C.P.E., D.R., Physician in Charge, Department of Student Health, University of Edinburgh, and Nurses Health Service, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., Edinburgh and London. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Mt. Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2, Md. 214 pages, \$4.00.

Osler's brilliant popular writings, addressed often to medical students or nurses, have been famous for fifty years. Now Dr. Verney gives us for the first time an anthology of this material in the form of excerpts from the various essays grouped together according to subject such as "The Student of Medicine," "The Professor of Medicine," "A Way of Life," et cetera. Osler's philosophy was one of hard, unremitting work, but not necessarily divorced from broad humanitarian subjects. Himself a great bibliophile, he wrote brilliantly with rich allusions to lay and professional literature. He preached and practiced imperturbability, equanimity and courage in adversity; it was his life's tragedy that all these failed him with the death of his son in the first world war.

Every medical student and doctor should own and frequently re-read these works of the master physician of the late 19th century.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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THE MEDICAL WORLD OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY—Lester S. King, M.D., University of Chicago Press, Chicago 37, Illinois, 1958. 346 pages, \$5.75.

In this loosely correlated series of essays Dr. King conveys the spirit of 18th century medicine. There is much interesting material here such as the excellent account of Hahnemann (Similia Similibus), the growth of medical ethics, fevers, and many others. Perhaps the author does not make clear as precisely as possible the rather sharp dividing line between the 18th and 19th centuries. The eighteenth was definitely oriented backwards—to Galen. All one need do to convince himself of this is to read discussions about the nature of disease and its treatment written before 1800. With the development of that brilliant school of pathologist-clinicians in Paris, typified by such men as Laennec and Louis, however, the whole outlook changed. The mysticism and empiricism of the past were thrown off like a confining shell and a new attitude of exact inquiry and observation took its place; with this group began modern medicine with remarkable distinctness.

Dr. King's book is instructive and entertaining but should be read more as part of the history of civilization rather than of medicine.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.